

**Climate
Litigation
Network**



CLIMATE CHANGE LITIGATION: 10 YEARS AFTER URGENDA

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1

Urgenda & 886 co- plaintiffs (2015 - 2018 - 2019)

Climate Change an existential
threat

Human Rights obligation to take
adequate measures

Each State does its 'fair share'

Order to reduce by minimum of
25% in 2020 (from 1990)



2

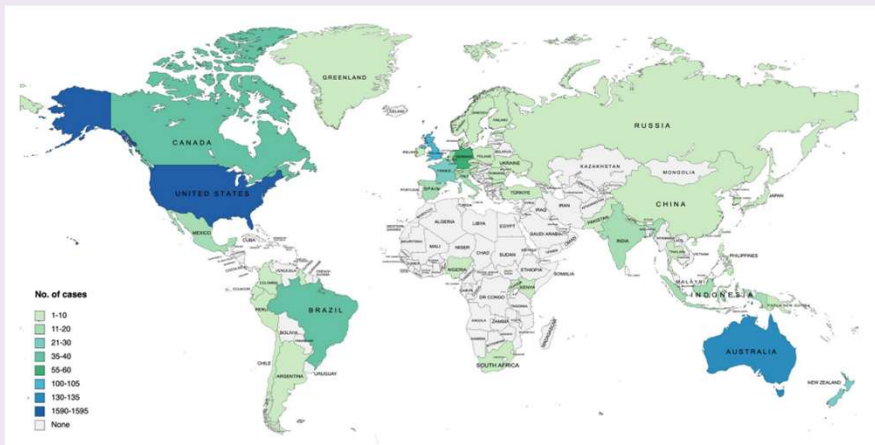
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Climate Litigation around the world



3

Climate Litigation around the world



Source: London School of Economics and the Sabin Center

4

KlimaSeniorinnen v. Switzerland

9 April 2024



The New York Times

European Court Faults Switzerland

Experts said it was the first time an international court determined that governments were legally obligated to meet their climate targets under human rights law.

Listen to this article - 6:37 min [Learn more](#) [Share full article](#) [266](#)

A young boy in a blue jacket is holding a white banner with 'CLIMATE JUSTICE' written on it. Other people are visible in the background, some also holding banners. The scene is outdoors on a paved area.

Supporters for the group of older women bringing a climate-related lawsuit against

5

International Court of Justice

23 jul 2025

Limit to 1.5°C



6

3

Shell v Milieudefensie

12 November 2024

Appeals judgement:

- Shell has obligation to reduce emissions in line with 1.5°C
- Court can enforce minimum reduction targets
- Not able to determine exact minimum in this case
- BUT: Likely no more drilling allowed: NEW CASE

Sport Culture Lifestyle

Environment Science Global development Football Tech Business Obituaries

This article is more than 7 months old

Shell defeats landmark climate ruling ordering cut in carbon emissions

Oil and gas company had challenged 2021 ruling that it must reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45% by 2030

Winnie Oussoren and Donald Pols, of the NGO Milieudefensie, attend the court session in The Hague hearing Shell's appeal. Photograph: Yves Herman/Reuters

7

Milieudefensie v Shell 2

Claim:

All new oil field development is unlawful

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

World Business U.S. Politics Economy Tech Markets & Finance Opinion Arts Lifestyle

SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS

Shell Faces Fresh Legal Challenge Over Development of New Oil and Gas Fields

Dutch environmental group Milieudefensie said by developing new fields, the oil and gas giant is in breach of legal duties to cut carbon emissions

By Yusuf Khan

Updated May 13, 2025 12:49 pm ET | WSJ PRO

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8

4

Saul Luciano Lliuya v. RWE

- RWE is responsible for its share of causing climate change impact
- Could be held liable for cost relating to flood risks from melting glacier.
- (in specific case, house of the plaintiff was not close enough to the flood risk area)

The New York Times

German Court Dismisses a Climate Suit but Opens the Door to Future Cases

The judges ruled that German civil law could be used to hold companies accountable for the worldwide effects of their emissions.

Listen to this article - 5:08 min [Learn more](#)

Share full article



The plaintiff, Saúl Luciano Lliuya, was seeking damages linked to the threat of flooding from Lake Palcacocha in Peru. *Angela Ponce/Reuters*

9

Report on 10
years climate
litigation since
Urgenda



Climate
Litigation
Network

LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR OUR SHARED FUTURE

How ten years of climate cases
built a legal architecture for
climate protection

10


5



LEGAL BUILDING BLOCKS FOR GOVERNMENT EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS 



Governments have a legal duty to hold global warming below 1.5°C


11



LEGAL BUILDING BLOCKS FOR GOVERNMENT EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS 



Governments must do their equitable share to limit temperature increase to 1.5°C, guided by science.

12

LEGAL BUILDING BLOCKS FOR GOVERNMENT EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS 



Governments must adopt fair and achievable climate plans without delaying burden to future generations.

13

LEGAL BUILDING BLOCKS FOR GOVERNMENT EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS 



Governments must show that their actions match their promises, by implementing robust measures to achieve their climate targets.

14

LOOKING AHEAD: CORPORATE EMISSIONS, NEW FOSSIL FUELS AND LOSS AND DAMAGE



Corporations have a legal duty to cut their emissions to prevent public harm.

15

LOOKING AHEAD: CORPORATE EMISSIONS, NEW FOSSIL FUELS AND LOSS AND DAMAGE



Limits to Governments' support for fossil fuel production.

16

LOOKING AHEAD: CORPORATE EMISSIONS, NEW FOSSIL FUELS AND LOSS AND DAMAGE



Big polluters can be held accountable for climate damages.

17

Bonaire v Nederland

28 January 2026

- Netherlands needs to reduce emissions by its equitable share
- Including aviation and shipping
- Order to adopt emissions targets and pathways for period until 2050
- In line with international law principles

Jan 28, 2026 | Last Updated: Jan 29, 2026
Justice, News

Court rules Netherlands is not doing enough to meet 1.5C goal and protect Bonaire

A Dutch district court ruled that the country is using up more than its fair share of carbon emissions, and ordered the government to review its emissions-cutting plan



Plaintiff Jackie Bernabela and Greenpeace Netherlands managing director Marieke Vellekoop celebrate at the court © Marten van Dijk / Greenpeace / Greenpeace

18



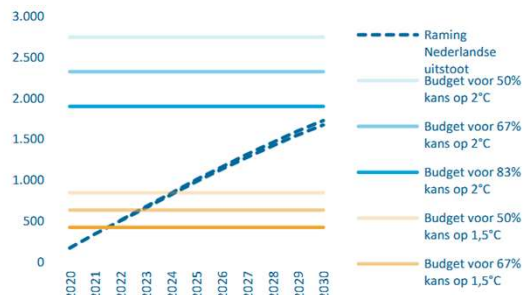
Equitable share?

Ten derde heeft de Staat niet overzichtelijk **gekwantificeerd** hoeveel emissieruimte Nederland nog heeft, **als deel van het mondiale emissiebudget** dat resteert om de **opwarming tot 1,5 °C** te beperken. Dit had de Staat wel op enige wijze moeten doen.

1.8 Klimaat en energie

Het doel om de opwarming van de aarde te beperken tot **1,5°C** raakt uit zicht. Nederland overschrijdt al in de komende 2 jaar het koolstofbudget dat past bij dit doel...

1.8.1 Uitstoot binnen Nederland (cumulatief) en het overblijvende koolstofbudget voor Nederland om de opwarming te beperken tot 1,5°C en 2°C.



Bron: Gebaseerd op het mondiale koolstofbudget uit Forster et al., Indicators of Global Climate Change 2022: annual update, vermenigvuldigd met het aandeel van Nederland in de wereldbevolking tot 2050 (volgens de ramingen van de VN).

2015 Paris Agreement: Hold below 1.5°C

Conference of the Parties
Twenty-first session
Paris, 30 November to 11 December 2015
Agenda item 4(b)
Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (decision 1/CP.17)
Adoption of a protocol, another legal instrument, or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties

ADOPTION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT

Proposal by the President



1.5°C Budget depleted in 2 years

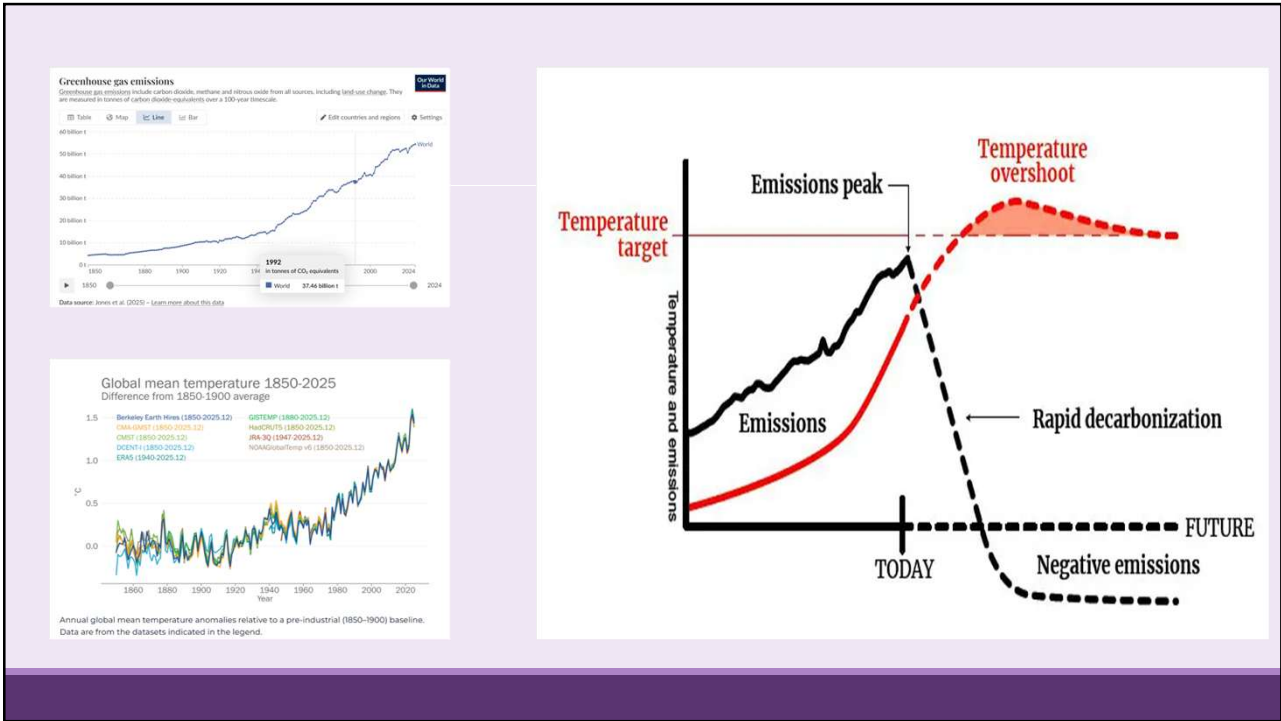


Three years left to limit warming to 1.5C, leading scientists warn

16 hours ago
Mark Poynting
Climate reporter, BBC News



The Earth could be doomed to breach the symbolic 1.5C warming three years at current levels of carbon dioxide emissions.



21

Government obligations in times of '1.5 ° C overshoot'

- Reduce domestic emissions as fast as possible.
 - Not adopting available reduction opportunities will need to be justified
- Support emission reduction measures in developing countries
- Scale up Carbon Dioxide Removal to the level of Net Negative Emissions






22

Swiss glacier collapse renews focus on risks of climate change as glaciers retreat around the world

Climate change added 41 days of dangerous heat in 2024 and caused 'unrelenting suffering'

Climate 'whiplash' linked to raging LA fires

Spain's apocalyptic floods show two undeniable truths: the climate crisis is getting worse and Big Oil is killing us

Who will pay?

Big Oil Profits At Record Highs in 2022

Record Profit of **\$200B**

Company	Profit
Exxon Mobil	\$59.1B
Shell	\$39.9B
Chevron	\$36.5B
Total Energies	\$36.2B
BP	\$27.7B

ExxonMobil reported the highest profits to date for any Western oil company

Shell announced the biggest profit in the company's 115-year history

23

LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR OUR SHARED FUTURE

How ten years of climate cases built a legal architecture for climate protection

Thank you

a partner of

SAMEN SNELLER DUURZAAM

24